

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CENTRALIZING A CERTIFICATE REVOCATION  
LIST IN A CERTIFICATE AUTHORITY CLUSTER

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5       A method and apparatus for centralizing a certificate revocation list (CRL). Specifically, the present invention describes a method and system for centralizing a CRL in a certificate authority. The certificate authority is comprised of a master server coupled to a plurality of clone servers that  
10      form a cluster of servers. Each of the clone servers in the cluster has the capability to provide certificate authority services. The present invention centralizes the CRL at a database accessed by the lightweight directory access protocol that supports a Secure Sockets Layer. A CRL merger service  
15      located at the master server maintains the CRL. The master server also receives revocation information coming from the clone servers indicating a certificate has been revoked. Upon receipt of such revocation certificate record, the corresponding certificate is added to the CRL. In this way a  
20      centralized CRL is maintained for the entire certificate authority cluster of servers.